

Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 ACDA-05 MC-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 IGA-01

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O R 141600Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1868

AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T JIDDA 5040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, YE, SA, US

SUBJECT: YEMENI MILITARY MODERNIZATION: U.S. POSTURE AFTER YAR
SOVIET PLOY

REF: (A) STATE 164128; (B) STATE 159768; (C) SANA 1790;
(D) SANA 1780; (E) JIDDA 4832

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1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN

JULY 14, AMBASSADOR REVIEWED SUBSTANCE REF A. HE PARTICULARLY STRESSED USG'S HOPE THAT WITH SAUDI BUDGET NOW OUT SULTAN COULD MOVE QUICKLY TO APPROVE AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN FOR YEMEN'S MILITARY MODERNIZATION. (REF E). SULTAN SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED YEMEN'S MILITARY MODERNIZATION WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD JULY 13, AND PLANNED TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING ON TOPIC WITH HIM JULY 15. HE AND CROWN PRINCE WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT RAPID ACTION WAS NEEDED. ONCE THE SAG'S POSITION ON A MILITARY PACKAGE HAD BEEN DETERMINED, HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY.

2. SULTAN SAID SAG WAS AIMING AT WRAPPING UP ITS INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS ON MILITARY AID TO YEMEN BY AUGUST 1, SO AS TO HAVE ITS PROPOSALS IN HAND FOR VISIT DEPUTY CINC GHASHMI BETWEEN AUGUST 5-10.

3. FROM SULTAN'S SUBSEQUENT REMARKS IT WAS CLEAR HE HAD BEEN INFORMED QUITE EARLY OF HAMDI'S INTENTION TO ANNOUNCE A TRIP TO THE USSR, AND THERE TO SEEK MODERN MILITARY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING TANKS AND MIG 21'S. SULTAN SAID THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A RASH AND DEPLORABLE THING FOR HAMDI TO DO AND WOULD HAVE MADE HIM APPEAR AS NOTHING MORE NOR LESS THAN A COMMUNIST AGENT. FORTUNATELY HOWEVER THE SAG HAD RECEIVED WORK FROM YEMENI FONMIN AL ASNAG THAT HAMDI HAD NO DESIRE EVER TO VISIT THE USSR AND WISHED ONLY TO LOOK TO THE WEST FOR ITS ARMS SUPPLIES AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENT. AL ASNAG HAD ALSO SAID HOWEVER THAT PRESIDENT HAMDI HAD TO CONSIDER PRESSURE FROM ARMY OFFICERS WHO WERE IMPATIENT FOR NEW EQUIPMENT AND WHO ATTACHED MORE IMPORTANCE TO EARLY DELIVERIES THAN TO THE SOURCE. AKINS

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